REMARKS

The claims have been amended to more clearly define the invention as disclosed in the written description. In particular, claims 8 and 17 have been cancelled, while claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include substantially all of the limitations of cancelled claims 8 and 17, respectively.

Applicant notes that in the Examiner's Answer mailed July 23, 2004, the Examiner had indicated on page 17 therein that "adding the force-density, spring and gravity well model limitations to the independent claims" would overcome the rejection. Applicant submits that the above changes to independent claims 1 and 10 effectuates the Examiner's suggestion.

When the Examiner takes this case up for examination, it is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be taken into consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

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